been asked to import coal to meet requirement of their thermal power stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any measures to increase productivity of coal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has been able to by and large meet the requirements of coal of the thermal power stations as per the Annual Action Plan targets. The Power Sector has further been advised to import about 10 million tones of coal during the current financial year to meet their increasing demand for coal due to increased generation.

(c) and (d) CIL has taken up the following steps to reduce the gap between demand and indigenous supply and increase the productivity of coal:

a) 99 projects have been considered to be taken up during Tenth Plan

b) Allotment of coal blocks to end users for captive mining

c) Improvement in equipment utilization

d) Mechanization/modernization of existing mines

e) Timely implementation of projects

f) All new mines are being planned with mechanization

Deficiency of Coal for Steel Industry

4501. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is deficiency in ensuring adequate and reliable supply of coal to the steel industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including domestic supply of coal to steel industry and the supply from overseas sources during each of the last three years;

(c) whether it is possible for the domestic coal industry to meet the entire need of steel industry;

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in that regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a gap between demand of coal by steel industry and indigenous coal availability both qualitatively and quantitatively.

(b) Details are given in the statement (See below).

(c) At present with the available technology for steel making being used in the integrated steel plants and reserve of coking coal available in the country, it is not possible for domestic coal industry to meet the entire need of steel industry.

(d) and (e) Domestic coal industry is faced with constraint of techno-economically exploitable reserves of coking coal and hence cannot meet entire need to steel industry.

Coal Reforms

4502. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission have suggested some fresh reforms for the coal sector for implementation by his Ministry in a time-bound schedule, including removal of coal from the essential commodities list to allow free trading in coal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status?